THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): The all-India average cane price based on the Statutory Minimum Cane Price has increased by about 76 per cent during the period from 1980-81 to 1989-90. The average purchase tax, cess, etc. levied on cane by various State Governments increased by about 38 per cent on all-India basis while Central Taxes viz. excise duty and cess on sugar have increased by about 38 per cent during the aforesaid period. Since wages are included as part of overall conversion cost, it is not possible to assess its exact impact.

Stock of ground nut oil NDDB

1195. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the stock of ground nut oil with NDDB as on the 1st August, 1990 and at what rate it was purchased from the market;

(b) the profit earned by the N.D.D.B. during the year 1990 from ground nut oil only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) (a) Since edible oil is known to be a speculative commodity, it is not considered expedient in the public interest to inidcate detals regardng the quantty of oilseeds and oils purchased by NDDB.

(b) For the year ending 31st March, 1990 NDDB has incurred a net loss in purchase and sale of groundnut oil.

Financing of Housing Schemes

1196. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News item published in the Hindu dated 3.11.1990, Madras Edition about the non-utilization of the credit from Germany for financing the housing schemes; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Rs. 30 crores German Credit for housing finanance given to Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) was largely unused because the monthly income ceiling for the economically weaker sections has been fixed very low and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As per the agreement with Government of India and KREDITANSTALT FUR WIEDERAUFBAU (KFW) of Germany and HDFC, the line of credit of DM 25 million equivalent to 30 crores is to be drawn fully only by December, 1993. The total amount disbursed by HDFC is Rs. 2.24 crores against 12 projects.

Electrification of railway routes

1197. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are speeding up electrification of a number of railways routes in view of the scarcity of petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether any comprehensive policy has been framed in this regard:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the routes which are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) to (c) Electrification is a continuous process and Electrification Projects are identified on techno economic consideration with the approval of Planning Commission.

(d) At present, electrification of the following routes are in progress:—

(i) New Delhi-Madras (*via* G.T. route). The gap section from Itarsi to Nagpur.

(ii) Howrah-Bombay (*via* Nagpur), The gap section from Gondia to Nagpur.